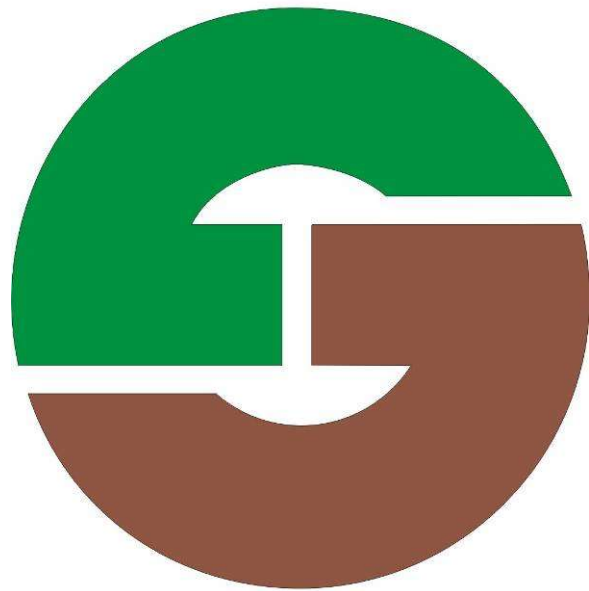


*SOIL SCIENCE
SOCIETY OF SOUTH
AFRICA*



NEWSLETTER

No. 106

November 2018

SSSSA COUNCIL/GVSA RAAD: 2017-19

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	Prof J.J.O. Odhiambo (University of Venda)
	Prof P. Mucheonyerwa (University of KZN)
	Dr J.J. Anderson (ARC-ISCW, Glen)

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The SSSSA does not necessarily agree with opinions expressed in this newsletter.

Die GVSA onderskryf nie noodwendig die menings van bydraes tot sy nuusbrief nie.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT/ **BOODSKAP VAN DIE PRESIDENT**

Dear colleagues/*Beste kollegas,*

As I write my last President's message, it is hard to believe that two years have passed so quickly. I have truly enjoyed writing these messages. But the year is ending and so is my term as President of the SSSSA.



Met die skrywe van my laaste Presidentsboodskap, is dit moeilik om te glo dat twee jaar so vinnig verby gevlieg het. Ek het dit regtig geniet om hierdie boodskappe te skryf. Die jaar is besig om ten einde te loop en so ook my termyn as President van die GVSA.

The Combined Congress of the Crop, Soil, Horticultural, and Weed Science Societies of South Africa will be held at the University of the Free State, Bloemfontein from 21 to 24 January 2019. The theme of the Combined Congress is "A *dynamic environment moulds the future*". A new major event at the Congress is that on Wednesday morning, 23 January 2019, a special workshop with the theme "Conservation Agriculture" will be conducted. This will accommodate all types of farming (extensive grazing, cereal crops, permanent crops, such as orchards and vineyards, etc.). I would like to encourage all SSSSA members to attend the Bloemfontein Congress and to present your recent results. This is going to be a very special event. For those who have not yet registered, I would like to encourage you to register (<http://combinedcongress.org.za/>) as soon as possible. The 2020 Combined Congress will also be held in Bloemfontein, and thereafter it will rotate again between coastal and inland venues.

Die Gekombineerde Kongres van die Gewas-, Grond-, Tuinbou- en Onkruidverenigings van Suid-Afrika sal vanaf 21 tot 24 Januarie 2019 by die Universiteit van die Vrystaat, Bloemfontein plaasvind. Die tema van die Gekombineerde Kongres is "'n Dinamiese omgewing vorm die toekoms". Daar is 'n nuwe en opwindende verandering aan die program. Tydens Woensdagoggend 23 Januarie 2019 sal 'n spesiale werkswinkel gehou word met die tema "Bewaringslandbou". Dit sal alle vorms van boerdery (ekstensiewe weiding, graangewasse, permanente gewasse, soos boorde en wingerde, ens.) akkommodeer. Ek wil graag alle lede van die GVSA aanmoedig om die Bloemfonteinse kongres by te woon en u nuutste resultate aan te bied. Dit gaan 'n baie spesiale geleentheid wees. Vir diegene wat nog nie geregistreer het nie, wil ek graag aanmoedig om so gou as moontlik (<http://combinedcongress.org.za/>) te registreer. Die 2020

Gekombineerde Kongres sal ook in Bloemfontein gehou word en daarna weer tussen kus- en binnelandse streke roteer.

I would like to welcome the new members and would like to encourage you to be active members of this society. I would like to encourage all SSSSA members, old and new, to familiarize yourself again with the SSSSA mission and aims. We, as soil scientists and members of the SSSSA, have a very important role and a great responsibility in our society, soil science and agriculture in general. Vince Lombardi said: *"The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual"*. This is very important for our society, soil science and agriculture in general. We need the participation and involvement of each SSSSA member to make our SSSSA the great and fantastic society it can be. We must be proud members of this fantastic society. Henry Ford said: *"Don't find fault, find a solution; anybody can complain"* and Byron Pulsifer said: *"Excuses are only for those people who are unwilling to find the solution, who find greater solace in the loudness of their complaints rather than in the action they are taking to implement the actions that carry them steadily forward to their achievement"*. With these quotes, I would like to encourage some of our SSSSA members, not to only complain about the things they "find fault" with, but to rather think about solutions and discuss the possible solutions and actions with the SSSSA board members in order to improve our society. We need to progress, we need to grow as a society in order to promote the advancement of soil science and soil technology as well as the responsible practising thereof by its members with the view to the long-term sustainable utilization of the environment in the interest of the community.

Ek verwelkom die nuwe lede en wil u graag aanmoedig om aktiewe lede van hierdie vereniging te wees. Ek wil graag alle GVSA-lede, oud en nuut, aanmoedig om jouself weer te vergewis van die GVSA se missie en doelwitte. Ons, as grondkundiges en lede van die GVSA, het 'n baie belangrike rol en 'n groot verantwoordelikheid in ons vereeniging, die grondkunde dissipline en landbou in die algemeen. Vince Lombardi het gesê: "Die prestasies van 'n organisasie is die resultate van die gesamentlike poging van elke individu". Dit is baie belangrik vir ons vereeniging, grondkunde en landbou in die algemeen. Ons benodig die deelname en betrokkenheid van elke GVSA-lid om ons vereeniging die groot en fantastiese vereeniging te maak wat dit kan wees. Ons moet trotse lede van hierdie fantastiese vereeniging wees. Henry Ford het gesê: "Moenie fout vind nie, vind 'n oplossing; enigiemand kan kla" en Byron Pulsifer het gesê: "Verskonings is slegs vir mense wat nie die oplossing wil vind nie, wie meer troos vind in die geraas van hul klagtes eerder as in die aksie wat hul neem om hul aksies te implementeer om hul geleidelik voorttedra na hul prestasie". Met hierdie aanhalings wil ek sommige van ons GVSA-lede aanmoedig om nie net te kla oor die dinge waarmee hulle fout vind nie, maar eerder om aan oplossings te dink en die moontlike oplossings en aksies met die GVSA raadslede te bespreek ten einde verbetering van ons

vereeniging. Ons moet vorder, ons moet groei as 'n vereeniging om sodoende die grondkundige wetenskap en tegnologie, asook die verantwoordelike beoefening daarvan deur sy lede met die oog op die langtermyn volhoubare benutting van die omgewing in belang van die gemeenskap te bevorder.

SSSSA membership information is still not up to date, which affects proper communication. I would like to remind you that it is your responsibility as a SSSSA member, as much as ours, to make sure that your membership information is up to date. Current SSSSA members are also encouraged to persuade fellow soil scientists to become members. An application form is available on the SSSSA website (<http://www.soils.org.za/>).

GVSA lidmaatskapinligting is nogsteeds nie op datum nie en bemoelik behoorlike kommunikasie. Ek wil u daarop wys dat dit u verantwoordelikheid as 'n GVSA-lid is, soveel as ons sin, om seker te maak dat u lidmaatskapinligting op datum is. Huidige GVSA lede word ook aangemoedig om mede-grondkundiges te oorreed om lede te word. 'n Aansoekvorm is op die GVSA webtuiste (<http://www.soils.org.za/>) beskikbaar.

During January 2018, small changes were made to the Constitution of the SSSSA in order for the SSSSA, Southern African Plant and Soil Sciences Committee (SAPSSC) and the other three Societies to be registered as a non-profit organization (NPO) for tax purposes. This is critical and unfortunately, there are no short cuts. It is a very long, frustrating and tedious process.

Gedurende Januarie 2018 is geringe veranderinge aan die Grondwet van die GVSA aangebring sodat die GVSA, Plant- en Grond Wetenskappe Komitee (SAPGWK) en die ander drie Vakverenigings vir belastingdoeleindes as 'n nie-winsgewende organisasie geregistreer kan word. Dit is krities en ongelukkig is daar geen kortpaaie nie. Dit is 'n baie lang, frustreerende en tydrowende proses.

The South African Journal of Plant and Soil (SAJPS) belongs to us - the members of the four societies, and therefore our continuous support is critical. All SSSSA members are invited, encouraged and challenged to publish in SAJPS and regularly quote past SAJPS references in their publications.

Die Suid-Afrikaanse Joernaal vir Plant en Grond (SAJPG) behoort aan ons – die lede van die vier vakverenigings en daarom is ons voortgesette ondersteuning krities. Elke GVSA lid word uitgenooi, aangemoedig en uitgedaag om in die SAJPG te publiseer en gereeld na vorige publikasies in die SAJPG te verwys.

Our website and Facebook are very active and are regularly updated with SSSSA news, Congress photos, notifications regarding upcoming events and happenings. I want to encourage members to visit our website (<http://www.soils.org.za/>) and Facebook page for more information.

Ons webtuiste en Facebook is baie aktief en word gereeld opgedateer met GVSA nuus, Kongresfoto's, kennisgewings rakende opkomende gebeurtenisse en aktiwiteite. Ek wil lede aanmoedig om ons webtuiste (<http://www.soils.org.za/>) en Facebook bladsy te besoek vir meer inligting.

The SSSSA Social Media Marketing Platform is up and running. I would like to encourage all soil related organizations and companies to make use of the SSSSA Social Media Marketing Platform to advertise jobs, products, services, marketing activities and upcoming events to soil science and agriculture professionals.

Die GVSA se Sosiale Media Bemarkingsplatform is aktief. Ek wil graag alle grondverwante organisasies en maatskappye aanmoedig om van die GVSA se Sosiale Media Bemarkingsplatform gebruik te maak om werk, produkte, dienste, bemarkingsaktiwiteite en opkomende geleenthede aan grondkunde en landboukundiges te adverteer.

I would like to congratulate Professor Laura Bertha Reyes Sánchez on her election as the new President of the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS), which starts on 01 January 2019.

Ek wil graag Professor Laura Bertha Reyes Sánchez gelukwens met haar verkiesing as die nuwe President van die internasionale liggaam vir grondkundiges, "International Union of Soil Sciences" (IUSS), wat op 01 Januarie 2019 begin.

We have lost two very prominent figures in South Africa's soil science circles and are much poorer today. On 19 October 2018 Oom Hendrik Pistorius passed away, followed by Dr Chris MacVicar who passed away on 22 October 2018. Both have done a great deal for the SSSSA as well as soil science in general.

Ons het twee baie prominente figure in Suid-Afrika se grondkunde sirkels verloor en is vandag baie armer. Op 19 Oktober 2018 is Oom Hendrik Pistorius oorlede, gevolg deur Dr Chris MacVicar wat op 22 Oktober 2018 oorlede is. Beide het baie vir die GVSA en grondkunde in die algemeen gedoen.

Robert Cheeke said: "Remember all the people in your life who helped guide you on your road to success. Thank them sincerely and often." James Levine said: "I was lucky that I met the right mentors and teachers at the right moment." In my case, I have been blessed to have many mentors in

my life, some who just appeared from nowhere. God knows whom we need in our lives. To those people, without mentioning names, I would like to thank you sincerely from the bottom of my heart. I appreciate all the help, support and guidance. I will keep on learning from you. It has been an honour and privilege to serve as your President. I greatly appreciate the support from SSSSA members and especially the SSSSA Board for their hard work and loyal support. It was a team effort! I believe that we have made great strides in addressing our challenges and needs and have implemented new initiatives, with bursaries opportunities to students becoming available in the near future. The state of the SSSSA is strong and its continued advancement relies on your participation, serving in whatever capacity that suits your strengths. This is a pivotal time in SSSSA history, so this is the time to become involved. It has been a very rewarding and fulfilling experience. As I progress into my new role as immediate past President, I look forward to my continued work on the Board.

Robert Cheeke het gesê: "Onthou al die mense in jou lewe wat jou gehelp het op jou pad na sukses. Bedank hulle opreg en dikwels. "James Levine het gesê: "Ek was gelukkig dat ek die regte mentors en onderwysers op die regte oomblik ontmoet het." In my geval is ek geseënd om baie mentors in my lewe te hê, sommige wat net verskyn het van nêrens af. God weet wie ons in ons lewe nodig het. Vir die mense, sonder om name te noem, wil ek u uit die diepte van my hart bedank. Ek waardeer al die hulp, ondersteuning en leiding. Ek sal aanhou leer van julle. Dit was 'n eer en voorreg om u as President te dien. Ek waardeer die ondersteuning van die GVSA-lede en veral die GVSA raad vir hul harde werk en lojale ondersteuning. Dit was 'n span poging! Ek glo dat ons heelwat vordering gemaak het om ons uitdagings en behoeftes te hanteer en nuwe inisiatiewe te implementeer, met befondsing vir studente wat in die nabye toekoms beskikbaar gestel kan stel. Die stand van die GVSA is sterk en sy voortgesette vordering is afhanklik van jou deelname en dien in enige hoedanigheid wat jou sterk punte pas. Dit is 'n deurslaggewende tyd in GVSA geskiedenis, so dit is die tyd om betrokke te raak. Dit was 'n baie bevredigende en vervullende ervaring. Aangesien ek oorgaan na my nuwe rol as uitredende President, sien ek uit na my voortgesette werk op die Raad.

My sincerest thanks to all. I look forward to seeing you in Bloemfontein for the Combine Congress and our Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the SSSSA where the new Council will be announced and I will be handing over the reins to the current President-elect, Mr Martiens du Plessis, of NWK Limited. I want to wish Martiens and the new Council all the best. At the same time, I would again like to express my sincere thanks to those who served with me on the Council for their hard work and loyal support. Finally, I want to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New year. Enjoy the holiday and drive safely.

My opregte dank aan almal. Ek sien uit daarna om u in Bloemfontein vir die Gekombineerde Kongres en ons Algemene Jaarvergadering (AJV) van die GVSA te ontmoet waar die nuwe raad aangekondig sal word en ek die leisels sal oorhandig aan die huidige verkose President, mnr. Martiens du Plessis, van NWK Beperk. Ek wens Martiens en die nuwe Raad al die beste toe. Terselfdertyd wil ek uit die diepte van my hart diegene wat saam met my op die Raad gedien het bedank vir hul harde werk en lojale ondersteuning. Laastens, wil ek u en u familie 'n geseënde Kersfees en voorspoedige Nuwejaar toewens. Geniet die vakansie en ry veilig.

Warmest regards/Beste wense

Cobus Botha

(082 414 4386; BothaC@arc.agric.za)

EDITORIAL/REDAKSIONEEL

We received sad news this week about the passing of two significant figures in the history of our Society, namely Hendrik Pistorius and Chris MacVicar. While Oom Hendrik last year celebrated his 100th birthday (as reported in the November 2017 Newsletter), Chris MacVicar had been a SSSSA member since the early days of the late 1950's.

On a personal note, on the day I arrived in South Africa as a pale, recent graduate from Scotland, Chris (who was of Scots descent himself), knocked on the door of my hotel room and invited me to go with him the next day to watch the South African Open golf tournament in Johannesburg (December 1981), and for the next decade or so, I was part of the Pedology team under him as Deputy Director.



Strange to think that, all these years later, I am now in the equivalent of that same post at ARC-ISCW! There are tributes to Oom Hendrik Pistorius and Dr Chris MacVicar elsewhere in this Newsletter, but I am sure all SSSSA members will join me in sending our deepest sympathy to their families and friends.

Regards,

Garry Paterson

(012 310 2601; 083 556 2458; garry@arc.agric.za)

COUNCIL MATTERS/RAADSAANGELEENTHEDE

From: IUSS Secretariat [<mailto:iuss@umweltbundesamt.at>]

Subject: Results of the voting of IUSS Presidential election 2018

Dear representatives of National Societies, other IUSS Council members and Honorary members,

Let me thank those who cast their vote for the IUSS Presidential election 2018. In total we received 66 valid votes of which 21 were for Professor Alex McBratney (Australia) and 45 for Professor Laura Bertha Reyes Sánchez (Mexico). IUSS was very pleased to have two strong candidates running for the position.

So **Laura Bertha Reyes Sánchez** from Mexico, current Secretary General of the Latin American Soil Science Society, was the successful candidate in this election. She will take up the position of President-Elect on 1st January, 2019. She will be the first female President in the history of IUSS. Let us congratulate her on this success!

Best regards,

Sigbert Huber

Secretariat of International Union of Soil Sciences

MEMBERS: PLEASE NOTE THAT ALTHOUGH THE SSSSA WEBSITE ADDRESS IS www.soils.org.za, THE CONTACT E-MAIL FOR OUR SECRETARY NANCY NORTJE, IS admin@soils.co.za

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU USE THE CORRECT E-MAIL ADDRESS IN ALL CORRESPONDENCE. THANK YOU.

On the following pages are some “flyers” that may be used to try and encourage new members and more SSSSA-related activities. If anyone would like separate copies of these flyers, please contact either the Editor or Secretary.



The Soil Science Society of South Africa (SSSSA) now provides
a **Social Media Marketing Platform** for your business

Reach potential customers with
a soil focus via
SOCIAL MEDIA!



Companies and individuals can now utilize the SSSSA media to advertise jobs, products, services, marketing activities and upcoming events to soil science and agriculture professionals.

Services are available at ridiculously low rates!

- ✦ **Newsletter** R500 (twice a year; Apr & Dec)
- ✦ **Distribution list** R1000 (any time)
- ✦ **Webpage** R500 per month (anytime)
- ✦ Enquire about our other **social media** options



For more information regarding our products and services contact the SSSSA secretariat:

Ms. Nancy Nortje:

Mobile phone: 083 389 0543

E-mail: admin@soils.co.za

Join the club!

Become a member of the SSSSA

What?

The Soil Science Society of South Africa (SSSSA) invites soil scientists to apply for membership – and claim the benefits!

Who can join?

Practising soil scientists or soils-related professionals living and working in South Africa

How?

- ✓ Visit www.soils.org.za
- ✓ Click on the 'Membership' tab
- ✓ Fill & submit your application form
- ✓ OR e-mail admin@soils.co.za

How Much?

- ✓ R360 per year*. This is less than the discount you will receive when registering for the annual Combined Congress!

*2023 price

Why?

- ✓ Claim SACNASP CPD points just for being a member of the SSSSA
- ✓ Receive notice of CPD-registered courses
- ✓ FREE subscription to *SA Journal of Plant & Soil*
- ✓ FREE subscription to the IUSS (International Union of Soil Sciences)
- ✓ DISCOUNTED rates for the annual Combined Congress
- ✓ Receive the SSSSA newsletter, congress notices and other notices important to professional soil scientists
- ✓ Cast your vote during AGMs
- ✓ DISCOUNTED SSSSA-branded items and entry into competitions

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Soil Science Society of South Africa



Join the club!



Become a member of the SSSSA student

What?

The Soil Science Society of South Africa (SSSSA) invites soil science students to apply for student membership – and claim the benefits!

Who can join?

Final year & full time post graduate soil science students living and studying in South Africa

How?

- ✓ Visit www.soils.org.za
- ✓ Click on the 'Membership' tab
- ✓ Fill & submit your application form
- ✓ OR e-mail admin@soils.co.za

How Much?

- ✓ Student membership: R150* per year
*(2018 price)

Why?

- ✓ Claim SACNASP CPD points just for being a member of the SSSSA
- ✓ Receive notice of CPD-registered courses
- ✓ DISCOUNTED rates for the annual Combined Congresses
- ✓ Receive the SSSSA newsletter, congress notices and other notices important to professional soil scientists
- ✓ Cast your vote during AGMs
- ✓ Looks good on your cv
- ✓ DISCOUNTED SSSSA-branded items and entry into competitions
- ✓ FREE subscription to the IUSS (International Union of Soil Sciences)
- ✓ FREE subscription to *SA Journal of Plant & Soil*

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Soil Science Society of
South Africa

Congratulations to all our SSSSA members who will be celebrating their birthdays between November and May. Best wishes for a memorable day and an adventurous year!!



Birthdays

(November – May)

The list below is according to our latest membership records. It might be that some of your details are recorded wrongly or outdated or there might even be members that are not even included in the list. If your membership details are not recorded correctly, you are kindly requested to email any changes or updates on your details to the society secretariat, Ms. Nancy Nortje (admin@soils.co.za).

November

9	Mr. J.J. (Jay) Le Roux
9	Mr. A.B. (Andre) Oosthuizen
9	Mr. K. (Kai) Küther
11	Dr P.A. (Philip) Myburgh
12	Prof H. (Hennie) van der Watt
12	Mr. H.C. (Chris) Bester
17	Mrs. R. (Ruth) Rhodes
20	Prof C.C. (Chris) du Preez
20	Mr. O.F. (Freddy) Madiba
20	Mr. L.J. (Lambert) van der Nest
25	Mr. V.E. (Vusi) Mbanjwa
26	Mr. D.B. (David) Woods

December

1	Dr J.J. (Kobus) Anderson
1	Mr. N. (Nelius) Kapp
3	Mr. M. (Martin) Tinnefeld
9	Mrs. A.M. (Astrid) Hattingh
10	Mr. P.P. (Paul) du Plessis
10	Mr. R.C. (Cassius) Ndwamato
14	Mrs. E. (Elmarie) Kotze
15	Mr. H.M. (Hennie) van den Berg
18	Mr. J.H. (Jan) du Toit
18	Prof J.H. (Josua) Louw
19	Dr G.G. (Goodman) Jezile
20	Prof A.S. (Andries) Claassens
20	Mr. C.E. (Carl) Steyn
21	Mrs. K. (Kimberly) Smith
23	Mr. L.B. (Benedict) Motsoko
23	Dr B.L. (Bernhard) Schroeder
24	Mr. T. (Thandile) Mdlambuzi
24	Prof W. (Wim) van Averbeke
25	Mr. L.L. (Lulama) Sombalo
29	Prof L.D. (Leon) van Rensburg

January

1	Mr. C.M. (Tiaan) Snyman
1	Prof A.T.P. (Alan) Bennie
1	Prof P.S. (Paul) Fouche
1	Mr. D.H. (Doug) Gordon
1	Miss. I.R. (Izane) Leygonie
1	Mr. J.H. (Johan) Potgieter
4	Ms. G.M.E. (Rinda) Pienaar
10	Mr. M. (Max) Machedi
12	Ms M.C. (Mmakgabo) Matlou
13	Mr. L.O. (Obert) Nethononda
14	Dr L.W. (Louis) Titshall
16	Ms. B. (Babalwa) Mtshawu
21	Mr. F.A. (Frans) Gerber
22	Ms. A. (Angelique) Zeelie
22	Mr. S.M. (Malizo) Buyeye
23	Mr. C.H. (Coenraad) Fraenkel
26	Mr. C.K.A. Mbetse
26	Mr. M.A. (Thinus) Prinsloo
27	Mr. B.J. (Spine) van Niekerk
28	Mr. M.J. (Mike) Copeland
28	Mr. C.J. (Chris) Viljoen

February

1	Prof R.O. (Robin) Barnard
4	Mr. W.A. (Adriaan) Dreyer
4	Mr. I. (Ikenna) Mbakwe
5	Mr. Z. (Zolani) Mkile
8	Mr. M.N. (Nico) Wasserfall
9	Mr. P.S. (Petrus Stephanus) Rossouw
11	Mr. P.I. (Piet) Steenekamp
12	Mr. C. (Chris) Malan
12	Mr. P.A.E. (Pat) McGee
13	Dr E. (Eyob) Tesfamariam

13 Mr. L.M. (Louis) Barkhuysen
 15 Ms. M. (Aghoghowia) Sika
 16 Mr. D. (Dawid) Saayman
 17 Mr. S.F. (Stephanus) du Toit
 17 Dr P.E. (Pieter) Haumann
 17 Mr. M.V. (Mike) Kidson
 17 Mr. G.N. (Gavin) Schafer
 20 Mr. J. (John) de Wet
 21 Dr C.W. (Colin) Smith
 22 Prof M.C. (Giel) Laker
 25 Dr L. (Louis) Ehlers
 25 Ms. N.N. (Nicole) Burri
 26 Mr. B.M. (Bruno) Hermann

March

1 Prof G. (George) Fanourakis
 1 Mr. P.F. (Palo) Loke
 1 Ms. K. (Karen) van der Westhuizen
 2 Mr. A. (Reckson) Mulidzi
 5 Mr. P.F. (Peter) Greeff
 5 Mrs. C.D. (Chrizette) Neethling
 6 Mrs. J.R. (Julia Ruth) Harper
 7 Mr. H.B. (Bates) Booyens
 7 Ms. P.C. (Charity) Modisane
 7 Miss. M.J. (Judith) Ratlabala
 8 Mr. M. (Mduduzi) Khuzwayo
 10 Dr H.J. (Hendrik) Smith
 10 Mr. M.H. (Marcel) Heine
 11 Dr F.M.G. (Frank) Vanassche
 13 Mr. W.P.J. (Wimpie) Maré
 17 Dr C.J.J. (Chris) Schmidt
 14 Dr J.J. (Jacobus) Bornman
 20 Dr M. Manjoro
 20 Mr. D.A. (Diederick) Scholtz
 21 Mrs. I. (Isabella) van Huyssteen
 22 Mr. P.M. (Petros) Maphumulo
 22 Mr. C.R. (Carl) Bierman
 24 Mr. B.M.M.P. (Buhle) Mndzebele
 25 Mr. M. duT. (Mico) Stander
 27 Dr A.D. (Alan) Manson
 28 Mr. F. (Frans) Olivier

April

1 Prof V.M. (Veronica) Ngole
 2 Dr G.M. (George) van Zijl
 3 Ms. F.J. (Felicity) Mitchell
 4 Mr. D. (Dirk) Gunter
 4 Prof P.N.S. (Pearson) Mnkeni
 7 Mr. M.F. (Mike) Steinke
 8 Mr. L.C. (Chris) Kaempffer
 12 Mr. J.A. (Andries) Gouws
 13 Mrs. S. (Stephani) Forbes
 13 Mr. C.B. (Chris) Barboure
 13 Mr. F. (Frank) Venter
 15 Mr. G.J. (Johan) Jordaan
 16 C.N.S. Engoke
 21 Dr F. (Freddie) Ellis
 22 Mr. K.H. (Henk) Kuperus
 22 Dr A.H. (Andre) Meyer
 24 Miss. A. (Amy) Kendall
 26 Dr J.G.K. (Hannes) Coetzee
 30 Mr. J.E. (Jan) Volschenk

May

1 Dr E. (Emmanuel) Mwendera
 3 Mr. D.S. Kitching
 6 Mr. P.J. (Johan) Engelbrecht
 7 Mr. F.H. (Francois) Knight
 8 Mr. A.E. (Anthonie) du Toit
 9 Mr. M.L. Fanana
 10 Mr. R. (Randy) Kumasamba
 11 Mr. H.A. (Allan) Mupambwa
 12 Dr C.M. (Corrie) Swanepoel
 12 Mr. L. (Leon) Meyer
 14 Mr. L.H. (Lourens) van Schoor
 19 Prof J.O. (Jude) Odhiambo
 19 Mr. M.F. (Frans) Rabothata
 19 Ms. C. (Caroline) Mubekaphi
 22 Dr J.H. (Johan) van der Waals
 25 Mr. M.R. (Mantlo) Ngwepe
 30 Mr. H.M. (Meiring) du Plessis
 31 Mr. K.L. (Kevin) Fourie

DEGREES AWARDED/GRADE TOEGEKEN

Sannie Katlego Mashigo was awarded her MSc degree with distinction by North-West University, with a thesis entitled “Diversity and functional attributes of micro-organisms from stockpiled soils of coal mines in Mpumalanga Province, South Africa”

Autumn graduations at UFS

- **Darren Bouwer** – “Integration of soil morphology, chemistry and hydrometry for optimization of hydrological response models” (PhD).
- **Palo F. Loke** – “Response of soil carbon fractions to land use systems under arid to semi-arid climates in South Africa” (PhD).
- **G.N. Mjanyelwa** – “Spatio-temporal distribution of temperature in an expansive soil under a low-cost house” (MSc Agric.).
- **J.J. Schimper** – “Effects of wheat production management practices on soil fertility over 37 years” (MSc Agric.).

Enter the **AGT Foods Africa / SSSSA**

‘Beauty of Soils’ Photography Competition 2018



Photo by Andrei Rozanov: “Peculiar Duplex”

The 2017 photo competition winners wowed us with their beautiful soils portraits – and by popular demand – we’re doing it again!

We invite all SSSSA members to submit their most beautiful digital photos of African soils

- Categories for entry:
 - Soils in landscape / agriculture
 - Soils: close up
 - People / animals and Soils
- Winners in each category will receive their certificates and cash prizes at the Combined Congress, Bloemfontein, January 2019.
- Top entries will be featured on the SSSSA website, newsletter and Facebook page, and displayed at the Combined Congress 2019.

Rules and Guidelines:

If you are an SSSSA member, you should already have received notification of this competition via e-mail. If you haven’t, please send your enquiry to: Ruth Rhodes (ruth@avorcane.co.za) – who will send you the full list of rules, guidelines and requirements for your submission.

RETIREMENTS/AFTREDES

André Oosthuizen will be retiring from the Stellenbosch office of the Pedology (now Soil Science) Division at ARC-Institute for Soil, Climate and Water at the end of November 2018. Andre joined the then Department of Agriculture straight from school (literally – he left school on the Friday and started work on the Monday!) in 1971, so he has an incredible 47 years of service.

André has been involved with soil surveys (including many irrigation surveys and the Land Type Survey) in most parts of the country, but mainly in the Western Cape, where he has been stationed for virtually his whole career.

The photo shows André (on the right, along with a much younger Newsletter Editor on the left), during one of the Pedology field tours in the late 1990's. This was when the then SIRI had a number of regional offices and it was a chance for all the Pedologists to come together (in this case at Nortier in the Western Cape) to look at soil profiles, as well as to socialise in the evenings. André was, along with the late Scot Smith-Baillie and others, part of the “Pedology Band” that “performed” in the evenings, especially when well lubricated!



All at ARC-SCW wish André a long and happy retirement.

IN MEMORIAM

OOM HENDRIK PISTORIUS (1917-2018)

by Giel Laker

Oom Hendrik Pistorius, as he was known in South Africa's soil science circles, died on 19 October 2018 at the age of 101. Oom Hendrik was for many decades a prominent figure on the South African soil science scene. Oom Hendrik was unique in the sense that he, as an industrialist, was an active member of the Soil Science Society of South Africa and attended its congresses so as to stay informed about the latest findings that were important for the

agricultural lime industry, in which he was a major role player as producer and marketer of agricultural lime.

Oom Hendrik put his hand deep into his pocket for soil science and the SSSSA. He was the main sponsor for a number of congresses of the Society. He also funded research on aspects related to agricultural lime and the liming of soils. Theo van Rooyen also reminded me of the fantastic H. Pistorius & Co. clipboards that Oom Hendrik handed out free to all and sundry. They were special in the sense that they were made of thick sturdy plastic and had a flap that could be closed over one's notes. As Theo said, they were excellent for use in the field, because of the latter and because the sturdy plastic was not affected by rain.

In recognition of Oom Hendrik's sustained support to soil science and the SSSSA over a very long period of time the Society awarded a silver medal and certificate to him on the occasion of his 100th birthday on 29 August 2017. We salute a person who was called a "giant" in South African soil science by a former President of the Society and extend our condolences to his family.



Oom Hendrik Pistorius on his 101st birthday on 29 August 2018 (Photo by Heidi Drew)

CN MACVICAR (1935-2018)

By Garry Paterson & Jan Meyer

Christopher Neil MacVicar, who passed away on 22nd October 2018, was born in the Eastern Cape on 20th March 1935. He enrolled at the University of Natal in 1953 and completed his BSc degree in Agricultural Chemistry under Prof ER Orchard in 1957, whereafter he started work at the Division of Chemical Services (later SIRI) in Pretoria. While stationed there, he was involved in a number of soil investigations, chiefly surveys, including the Tankwa River in the Tankwa Karoo for irrigation suitability.

In 1958, he was part of the team (including John de Villiers and Jaap van der Eyck) that embarked on the "Soils of the Tugela Basin" project, whereby an area of 28 000 sq. km was mapped, and which led to the development of the soil body concept and later to the soil forms and series that laid the foundations for soil classification in South Africa.

The survey finished in 1962, whereafter the maps and reports were produced (as late as 1969 to include results from other surveys, such as in Pondoland, Eastern Cape). Thereafter, Dr MacVicar was part of a team that carried out a project to identify the soils of the north-eastern Highveld for the fertilizer industry. His PhD from the University of Natal was awarded in 1962 for a thesis entitled “Soil studies in the Tugela Basin”.

Dr MacVicar was employed from 1967 to 1972 at the South African Sugar Research Centre in Mount Edgecombe, Natal where he joined Dr Beater in assisting with the completion of mapping 550 000 ha of sugar industry land on a 1:6 000 scale, using a soil parent material system of classification. In 1969, Chris presented a ground breaking paper at the local Sugarcane Technology meeting that dealt with the importance of climate and soil in determining land capability and crop potential and the need for classifying the industry into a number of ecotopes (classes of land, each uniform with respect to climatic type and soil series). This



paper paved the way for the first Soils Bulletin of the Sugar Industry in 1972 that enabled the easy identification of the many and varied ecotopes in the sugarcane areas of KZN and Mpumalanga, while at the same time providing a very simple key based on bio-climate, topo-sequence and parent material that growers could use to identify the dominant soil forms and soil series on their fields.

Chris’s experience at SASRI stood him well to take up his next appointment at SIRI in Pretoria in 1973, to head up the team of soil scientists that carried out the fieldwork for what became the Land Type Survey of South Africa, that also included climate and other soil forming factors to differentiate Land Type. The information gained from this survey, along with previous surveys such as the Tugela Basin survey, the surveys conducted in the sugar industry, led to the formation of the Soil Classification Working Group, headed by Chris and Reg Loxton, which led to the publication in 1977 of the well-known “Red Book”, otherwise known as “Soil Classification – a Binomial System for South Africa”.

Dr MacVicar was employed from 1967 to 1972 at the South African Sugar Research Centre in Mount Edgecombe, Natal, before returning to SIRI in Pretoria, where he joined the group of soil scientists that carried out the fieldwork for what became the Land Type Survey of South Africa, being promoted to Deputy Director in 1976. The information gained from this survey, along with previous surveys such as the Tugela Basin survey, led to the formation of the Soil Classification Working Group, headed by Chris and Reg Loxton, which led to the publication in 1977 of the well-known “Red Book”, otherwise known as “Soil Classification – a Binomial System for South Africa”.

Dr MacVicar was transferred in 1987 to the then Natal Region of the Department of Agriculture as Director, from where he supervised the preparation of the second edition of the soil classification system, the “Blue Book” (Taxonomic System).

Dr MacVicar was President of the SSSSA from 1983-84, and was part of the Soil Classification Working Group team that was awarded the Gold Medal in 1987, whereafter he was awarded a Silver Medal for his own contributions to Soil Science in 1990.

He retired to Howick in Kwa-Zulu-Natal and lived there until he passed away. His wife passed away a couple of years ago, and he is survived by a son, Neil.

AWARDS/TOEKENNINGS

Eskom Expo for Young Scientists

At the recent event, held again at the Birchwood Hotel in Kempton Park, the SSSSA awarded prizes for the best soil-related projects. The judges, **Michael Kidson**, **Dr Ashira Roopnarain** and **Dr Timi Bamuza-Pemu**, were very impressed by the high standard, and decided to make three awards instead of two.

The winners are:

Junior Category: Mohammed Taqwa Sabjee (KZN), „Future Farming“



Senior Category: shared between Nicola Kroese/Abongile Nokenke (E Cape), „How does CO₂ affect the germination process of indigenous seeds“ and Kiyathan Pillay (KZN), „Solar powered irrigation system“



CONGRESSES/KONGRESSE

COMBINED CONGRESS

The next Combined Congress will be held at the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein from January 21st to 24th 2019. Time is getting short, so if you have not already registered and wish to do so, please go to www.combinedcongress.org.za.

An interesting innovation is that, while excursions were traditionally conducted on Wednesday afternoons, for the upcoming congress, these will be replaced with a Workshop titled "Conservation Agriculture". Aspects pertaining no-till agriculture in rain-fed and irrigated crop production; alternative conservation systems to no-till agriculture; conservation agriculture in orchards and vineyards; soil fertility and fertilization management in conservation agriculture; and weed management in conservation agriculture will be dealt with during the workshop. This workshop will be registered with SACNSP and attendees would be able to claim CPD points.

Acid Sulfate Soils

Although it's quite a while in the future, interested parties might like to diarize this invitation sent by SSSSA member Rob Fitzpatrick, based "Down Under" in Adelaide.

9th International Acid Sulfate Soils Conference

November 15 to 20, 2020

Location: The University of Adelaide, Adelaide, Australia

Theme: *Acid Sulfate Soils: Progress, Policy and Prospects*

Organizer: Acid sulfate Soils Centre, The University of Adelaide, South Australia

Joint conference supported by: International Union of Soil Sciences, Soil Science Australia and Australian Clay Minerals Society.

Field Tours: *Pre-Conference* (15th November): Barker Inlet Estuary - *Field Tour 1*;
Mid-conference (18th November): Lakes Alexandrina/ Albert and Coorong - *Field Tour 2*;
Post-Conference (20th November): Mt Lofty Ranges, Lower Murray River Irrigation Area;
Managed Murray River wetlands / Banrock Station Ramsar wetlands - *Field Tour 3*

The 9th International Acid Sulfate Soils Conference (9th IASSC) is the premier interdisciplinary forum for the presentation of new advances and research results in the fields of acid sulfate soil research, policy and management practices. The conference will bring together leading scientists, industry practitioners and government managers in this domain of interest from around the world.

Topics of interest for submission include, but are not limited to:

- Progress in the classification, mapping and mineralogy of acid sulfate soils
- Advances in the origins, properties and processes of acid sulfate soils in:
 - **Coastal environments:** coastal margins, oceans and estuaries.
 - **Inland environments:** rivers, lakes, wetlands, irrigated areas and the arid zone
 - **Mineral exploration sites:** presence of concealed ore/mineral deposits
 - **Industrial sites:** acid mine drainage, mine site & salt field remediation, infrastructure assessment
 - **Water-rock interactions:** hydrogeochemistry and water pollution
- Policy development/ societal change and acid sulfate soils: a balancing act
- Management practices, land-use change and acid sulfate soil productivity
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation: the role of acid sulfate soils
- Monitoring networks and environmental change: successes and future prospects

Website Link: For more detailed information and updates see the Acid Sulfate Soils Centre website: <http://biological.adelaide.edu.au/acid-sulfate-soil/iassc>

Important Dates:

- Abstract Submission opens: 1st November, 2019
- Conference Registration opens: 1st November, 2019
- Abstract Submission and Early Registration closes 1st February, 2020



SOIL SCIENTISTS ABROAD/GRONDKUNDIGES OORSEE

Jasper Dreyer, from North West University, and his colleagues **Angelique Daniell**, **Sascha Roopa** and M.Sc. student **Ruan Ainslie** recently attended the "21st World Congress of Soil Science" in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (see photo below).

Jasper presented a paper titled "The use of aerial gamma-ray spectrometry to determine soil physical and soil chemical properties for soil mapping", while Ruan presented a poster.



The "Potch gang" in Rio: (L to R) Jasper, Sascha, Angelique and Ruan

There was more of a South African presence in Rio. Delegates from the University of the Free State who attended the Congress included **Prof. Chris du Preez**, **Mischke Bouwer**, **Prof. Cornie van Huyssteen**, **Dr. Elmarie Kotzé**, **Anizka Stolk**, **Dr. Johan van Tol** and **Dr. Johan Barnard** (see photo below). The team presented five papers and Prof van Huyssteen led the South African team at the soil judging competition of whom Mischke and Anizka were team members.



The "Bloem gang" in Rio: (L to R) Chris, Mischke, Cornie, Elmarie, Anizka, Johan vT and Johan B.

The Free Staters have been busy travellers. **Dr. Elmarie Kotzé** attended the third conference on Ecology of Soil Microorganisms in Helsinki, Finland from 17-21 June. She presented a poster on "The effect of rangeland management on soil microbial communities in a sandy savanna and clayey grassland ecosystem, South Africa".



In addition, **Virginia Mathinya** attended an International postgraduate course on Farming Systems and Rural livelihoods: Pathways to sustainable development in Fort Portal, Uganda (16 - 28 September 2018).



MISCELLANEOUS/ALGEMEEN

Soil Information Workshop

As previously reported, **Dr. Andrei Rozanov** (Stellenbosch University) together with **Dr Garry Paterson** (ARC-ISCW) and **Mr. Klaas Mampholo** (DAFF) led the team that initiated a dialogue on soil information with the European Union (EU).

After the kick-off workshop in February this year, a South African delegation embarked on a fact-finding one-week study tour to Italy, Germany and France in May 2018 in order to understand how public-private interaction is established and maintained.



*The photo shows the team at one of their stops, CEES in France. Left to right: **Mr. Janse Rabie** (AgriSA), **Mr. Gilbert Nkoana** and **Mr. Klaas Mampholo** (DAFF), **Ms. Thobeka Manyathi** (AFASA), **Dr. Edwin Moshia** (ARC), **Ms. Anneliza Collett** (DAFF), **Dr. Andrei Rozanov** (Stellenbosch University).*

The final dialogue event, a discussion session and workshop, was held on 22nd and 23rd October at ARC in Pretoria. A range of speakers, from both South Africa and Europe, provided the backdrop for inputs to what is hoped will be a national Soil Strategy document for South Africa, as well as methodology and guidelines about handling soil information and making it accessible and useable in the future.

World Soil Day 2018

As most soil scientists will know, each year on 5th December, World Soil Day is commemorated. As in the two previous years, ARC and DAFF have arranged a seminar and discussion session on the day.

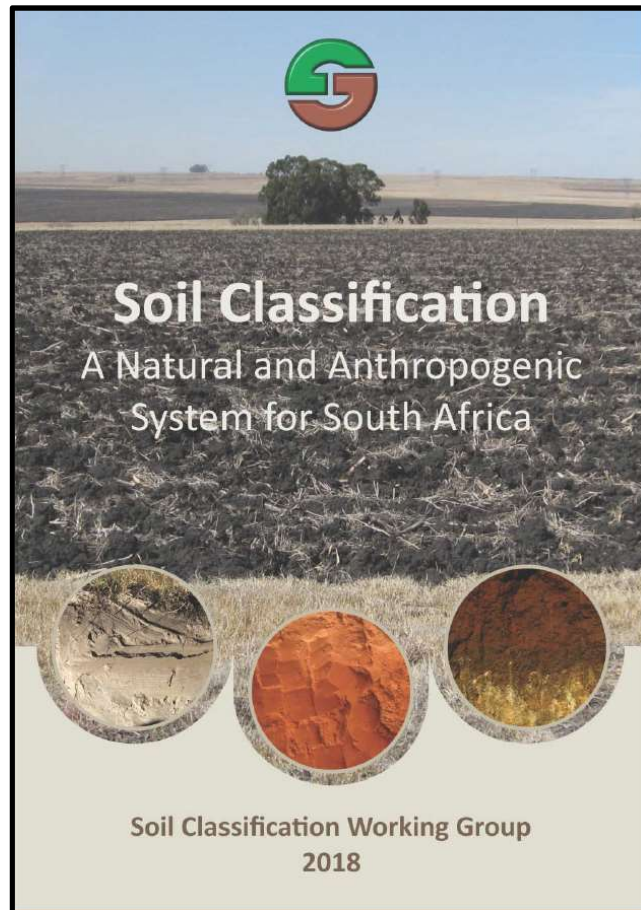
- Venue: ARC-ISCW, 600 Belvedere St, Arcadia
- Theme: "Be the solution to soil pollution"
- Date: Wednesday 5th December (09h00-12h30)
- Speakers include Johan van der Waals (Terra Soil Science), Garry Paterson (ARC) and Adolph Malatji (DAFF)



If you are interested in attending, contact Adri Laas (AdriL@arc.agric.za; 012 310 2518) to reserve a place.

SOIL CLASSIFICATION WORKING GROUP

As reported in the last Newsletter, the third edition of the South African Soil Classification System “Soil Classification – A Natural and Anthropogenic System for South Africa” has at last been printed and is available from ARC-ISCW (012 310 2500) for R200 per copy (VAT inclusive).



The immediate future of the Working Group will see some changes, with Technical Co-ordinator **Dr Dave Turner** stepping down. There have been some proposals for new members to join the Working Group, so once the new Convener has been elected, the group will look at the way forward to ensure that soil classification in South Africa remains topical and relevant.

HUMOUR

Pisa, Italy, 1170 AD



SOIL SCIENCE SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA: MISSION

The SSSSA is a scientific society, which, in the interest of its members, promotes the advancement of soil science and soil technology as well as the responsible practicing thereof by its members with the view to the long-term sustainable utilization of the environment in the interest of the community.

Aims

1. Promotion and protection of the professional status and prestige of soil science as a science and career.
2. Promotion and extension of the society.
3. Promotion of the standard of training of soil scientists and technologists.
4. Creation of opportunities for the free exchange of ideas on soil science and technology.
5. The obtaining and dissemination of knowledge, information and ideas having relevance to soil science by means of discussion and publication.
6. Promotion of contact between the society and other bodies with common or similar interests, both within South Africa and overseas.

GRONDKUNDEVERENIGING VAN SUID-AFRIKA: MISSIE

Die GVSA is 'n wetenskaplike vereniging wat in belang van sy lede verbind is tot die bevordering van grondkundige wetenskap en tegnologie, en die verantwoordelike beoefening daarvan deur sy lede met die oog op die lang termyn volhoubare benutting van die omgewing in belang van die gemeenskap.

Doelstellings

1. Bevordering en beskerming van die professionele status en aansien van grondkunde as 'n wetenskaplike beroep.
2. Bevordering en uitbouing van die vereniging.
3. Bevordering van die standaard van opleiding van grondkundige wetenskaplikes en -tegnoloë.
4. Skepping van geleenthede vir vrye gedagtewisseling oor grondkundige wetenskap en tegnologie.
5. Die verkryging en verspreiding van kennis, inligting en idees wat op grondkunde betrekking het by wyse van samesprekings en publikasies.
6. Bevordering van skakeling tussen die vereniging en ander liggame met gemeenskaplike of soortgelyke belange, beide in Suid-Afrika en in die buiteland.